

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5-7, and 10-13 have been amended herein. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 5-6 and 13-14 subject to being amended to be in independent form. Claims 5-6 and 13 have been amended to independent form. Therefore, claims 5-6 and 13-14 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes that other pending claims are in condition for allowance in their current form for at least the reasons set forth below.

II. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-4, AND 7-12 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 AND 103

Claims 1-4, and 7-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 based primarily on U.S. Patent No. 5,877,778 (Dow). These claims are believed to be allowable over the cited art for at least the following reasons.

The invention defined in independent claims 1, 7, and 10-12 is directed to a computer-readable recording medium, a method, and an apparatus. Specifically, these independent claims now require that "the three-dimensional object is constructed by a plurality of polygons, and each of the plurality of polygons is constructed by a plurality of vertexes." Applicant believes that none of the cited references teach or suggest this claimed aspect of the invention as discussed below.

According to the present invention, when two three-dimensional objects which are arranged adjacent to each other through a joint are rotated around the joint as a supporting point, some interference between them may be caused. As a result, one object may enter into the other object. An object of the present invention is to deform objects so as to avoid such an interference, by weighting each of vertexes defining each object (polygon).

By contrast, the Dow patent is directed to a method of making an animation in real time. In the method, the desired motion is expressed by pre-defining a plurality of motion units (MU) in a polyarticular figure and by combining the plural motion units among them arbitrarily. That is, the gist of Dow relates to a control of the motions with respect to "joints," and "weighting." In Dow's system, motion units are used based on priority. Accordingly, in Dow, the polyarticular figure has a structure formed by combining a plurality of bones each of which connects between the joints. See, for example, Fig. 13 of Dow. Therefore, Dow fails to teach or

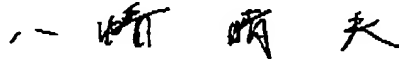
suggest the above-identified aspect of the invention. The Mohri patent fails to cure the deficiencies of Dow.

In view of the foregoing, independent claims 1, 7, and 10-12 and their dependent claims are believed to be allowable over the cited art. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 510-843-6200, ext. 245.

Respectfully submitted,
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Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

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